

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A device for determining at least one calibration parameter of at least one image sensor,
  - the at least one image sensor monitoring a scene staying the same in parts, particularly the passenger compartment of a motor vehicle,
  - at least one processing unit detecting a decalibration of the at least one image sensor in the operation of the at least one image sensor, as a function of image signals,
  - upon the detection of a decalibration, the processing unit reporting the decalibration to a subsequent system and/or to the driver, and/or determining the at least one calibration parameter as a function of the image signals,
  - the at least one image sensor deriving the image signals at least from at least one invariant pattern in the image coverage range of the at least one image sensor.
2. The device as recited in Claim 1,  
wherein the at least one invariant pattern is formed by at least one reference object applied in the scene for determining the at least one calibration parameter.
3. The device as recited in Claim 2,  
wherein the at least one reference object is an illumination means, especially that the at least one reference object is an infrared light-emitting diode, and/or the at least one reference object is designed in such a way that it has high reflectivity, in particular, that it has a reflectivity between 0.5 and 1.0.
4. The device as recited in one of Claims 2 through 3,  
wherein the at least one reference object has a geometrical shape, such as a point and/or a circle and/or a triangle and/or a quadrilateral and/or a square and/or the at least one reference object is at least one letter and/or at least one character and/or at least one logo.
5. The device as recited in one of Claims 2 through 4,  
wherein the at least one reference object is applied to at least one object of the scene that is relevant with respect to the monitoring function of the at least one image sensor; particularly,

the at least one reference object is applied to at least one air bag flap and/or at least one air bag and/or at least one steering wheel in the passenger compartment of the motor vehicle.

6. The device as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the at least one invariant pattern is formed by at least one naturally occurring object of the scene; in particular, the at least one invariant pattern is formed by at least one object located in design-conditioned fashion in the passenger compartment of a motor vehicle.

7. A device for determining at least one calibration parameter of at least one image sensor,

- the at least one image sensor monitoring a scene staying the same in parts, particularly the passenger compartment of a motor vehicle,
- a decalibration of the at least one image sensor being detected during the operation of the at least one image sensor as a function of image signals,
- upon the detection of a decalibration, the decalibration being reported to a subsequent system and/or to the driver, and/or the at least one calibration parameter being determined as a function of the image signals,
- the image signals being derived from at least one invariant pattern in the image coverage range of the at least one image sensor by the at least one image sensor.

8. The method as recited in Claim 7, wherein the image signals are derived from at least one reference object applied in the scene for the determination of at least one calibration parameter and/or are derived at least from at least one naturally occurring object of the scene, the at least one reference object being especially an illuminating means and/or the at least one reference object having a high reflectivity.

9. The method as recited in Claim 8, wherein the image signals are derived from at least one reference object, the at least one reference object being applied to an object of the scene that is relevant with respect to the monitoring function of the at least one image sensor; particularly, the at least one reference object is applied to at least one air bag flap and/or at least one air bag and/or at least one steering wheel in the passenger compartment of the motor vehicle.

10. A computer program having program code means for carrying out all the steps of each of any of the Claims 7 through 9 when the program is run on a computer.